



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
Phone: (315) 422-5716  
Fax: (315) 422-7753  
[www.smtcmpo.org](http://www.smtcmpo.org)

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 15, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council  
Lower-Level Conference Room  
126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202**

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - October 4, 2023
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
  - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
  - A. 2024-2025 UPWP Adoption & 2023-2024 UPWP Year End
  - B. Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment
  - C. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization
  - D. CNYRTA Public Outreach (Exploring Tomorrow's Transit)
  - E. Bridge NY Application Review
  - F. Election of Officers
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**

## **The Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Office of the Mayor • Syracuse Common Council • Syracuse Planning Commission • CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • Empire State Development • New York State Thruway Authority • Office of the County Executive • Onondaga County Legislature • Onondaga County Planning Board • Central New York Regional Transportation Authority • Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board • Federal Transit Administration • Federal Highway Administration

# SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the February 15, 2024 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair  
Chris Tuff  
David Roth  
Jared Shepard  
Mary Robison, Vice Chair  
Chris Rauber  
Mark Olson  
Owen Kerney  
Sara Sherlock  
Aaron McKeon  
Dereth Glance  
Ryan Smith

### Organization

Onondaga County Department of Planning  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
NYS Department of Transportation  
CenterState CEO  
City of Syracuse, Administration  
Onondaga County Department of Transportation  
Onondaga County Legislature  
City of Syracuse, Division of Planning  
NYS Thruway Authority  
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Empire State Development

### Also Attending

Heather Snow  
Spencer Lyons  
Betsy Parmley  
Katrina Bergan  
Chena Tucker

Oswego County  
Onondaga Nation  
NYS Department of Transportation  
NYS Department of Transportation  
Shineman Foundation

### SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Alexander McRoberts, Meghan Vitale, Andrew Frasier, and Lori Irvine.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

#### 1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the October 4, 2023, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Kerney seconded the Approval of the Minutes.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Costa asked for introductions of each person in attendance.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that due to the 2024-2025 UPWP adoption and 2023-2024 end of year summary later in the agenda (5A), he will not be going over the summary at this time. Any questions can be asked later.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

**I-81 Project Update**

Ms. Parmley indicated the following update:

The lawsuit was dismissed as of February 2nd and work can continue with the project without injunctions. There is still a federal case but has no impact on the project.

Contract 1 - Work in Cicero is fully under construction with ground improvement work to compact the soil to build a new flyover ramp from Business Loop 81 and I-81. Ms. Parmley indicated that 65 million dollars of work has been completed on the project in just 390 days.

Contract 2 - The southern section near Brighton Avenue includes removing portions of the bridge, demolition of bridges on I-81 and flagging on Seneca Turnpike with upcoming lane closures on I-81 to remove the I-81 to I-481 southbound ramp. Ms. Parmley indicated that in 203 days, more than 61 million dollars' worth of work has happened and 100 million dollars has been spent in 300 days on the project.

Ms. Parmley indicated that contracts 1 and 2 are on track to be completed by the end of 2025 but there might be some carryover work into 2026. Interstate 481 over CSX is complicated, and the schedule may need to be adjusted due to flagger scheduling issues.

Contract 3 - The Inner Harbor is being re-advertised as the original bids came in very high. The construction for this contract is scheduled for this summer.

Contract 4 - I-690 crossing Irving Ave and the new interchange to the University Hill is progressing PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) with a late March advertisement and late summer to early fall construction start. This contract is approximately \$155 million dollars.

Contract 5 - The final contract of Phase 1 is the southern half of I-81/Oakwood/Dr. King Elementary is ready to go to PS&E and will be advertised for bid in April.

Ms. Parmley indicated that at the end of this year, 5 contracts and a billion dollars' worth of work will be in construction. Impacts will be made to the traveling public and NYSDOT will continue to work with the City of Syracuse and other stakeholders to get the messages out.

Phase 2, the second half of the project which is the work to take down the viaduct will be next with NYSDOT submitting the authorization for detail design on Monday.

Ms. Parmley indicated that the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2028.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa indicated that this is an informational only item.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2024-2025 UPWP Adoption & 2023-2024 UPWP Year End**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the SMTC staff has developed the 2024-2025 UPWP.

A letter was sent to member agencies on November 27, 2023, acting as a call letter for UPWP Project Proposals.

A draft of the 2024-2025 UPWP was created programming 100% of our allocation plus unspent carryover monies.

Mr. D'Agostino outlined its approach to funding and programming for the 2024-2025 UPWP in light of funding needs and allocation limitations. To fully accomplish the program as envisioned, the NYSAMPO is contributing \$50,000 a year for two years to cover the costs of the 2025 NYSAMPO conference.

Mr. D'Agostino gave a brief overview indicating that SMTC had three major studies that were completed. The Coldbrook Creek Trail Study and the Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System that were both approved at previous meetings and the CNYRTA Public Outreach – Exploring Tomorrow's Transit effort that will be presented later in the agenda.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that other accomplishments include several public participation and outreach for the Nedrow study, Westvale Plaza study, Centro's ETT study, FOAT meetings (mostly virtual), quarterly newsletters and a currently launched Instagram account.

The 2020 Census data was released and SMTC staff is busy analyzing the adjusted urban area and the MPA adjustment that will be discussed later in the agenda. This is the seventh year in a row that the SMTC is collecting Traffic Count Data for the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Staff are currently developing an agency interactive map which will allow agencies to retrieve any needed data. Staff have compiled data for the Freight Profile and began querying the DataAxle employment data for freight related places of employment. Various attributes including the number of employees and sales volumes are being analyzed. SMTC staff continue to use software called Replica which helps figure out origins and destinations of travelers. The SMTC staff gathers pavement information on all federal-aid roads and also all roads in the City of Syracuse. This past year SMTC staff have been providing assistance to the Micron EIS and OCIDA requests using the Travel Demand Model to analyze alternatives and develop analysis. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that it was a huge effort (time and money) to incorporate the I-81 Community Grid into the Travel Demand Model.

A Long-Range Transportation Plan update was initiated with a SAC meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, another one scheduled in March and a public participation meeting scheduled soon with a goal for a new plan by September 2025. The SMTC completed some On-Call Planning Support for the City of Syracuse's Vision Zero/Complete Streets effort with writing a scope of work and helping with the consultant review process. SMTC also provided the City of Syracuse technical assistance for their \$500,000 Reconnecting Communities Grant. SMTC staff continues to coordinate with the City of Syracuse on

data collection efforts for their Sidewalk Planning Study with a goal to have the study completed by this summer. Staff continues updates to the Travel Demand Model with household and employment analysis for the future to include the Micron expansion and modeling the various transportation alternatives for Onondaga Lake Parkway as requested by the NYSDOT.

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Transportation Improvement Program is a list of all capital projects funded with FHWA or FTA dollars. The SMTC has obligated 100% of their funds. Additionally, there is Bridge NY, TAP/CMAQ and Section 5310 (FTA) funding solicitations that are currently ongoing.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there are 6 projects just shy of completion that will be brought to the committee in April or May. The proposed program for next year consisted of a process of the solicitation of projects, a virtual meeting, putting together a draft and sending it out for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there will be 4 major projects moving forward to next year and 10 new projects with a budget over 2 million dollars, which is the largest agency program to date.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2024-2025 UPWP.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Mr. Roth seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated The SMTC convened a Working Group in Fall 2023 comprised of member agency representatives to discuss and review modifications to the Urban Area as a result of the 2020 Census. A revised Urban Area, following discussion with the SMTC Planning and Policy Committees was subsequently provided to New York State for transmittal to the Federal Highway Administration. As part of the Working Group discussion, the existing Metropolitan Planning Area, which forms the area within which the SMTC's planning and programming efforts are undertaken, was identified for modification. The revised planning area removes the small portion of the Town of Granby that is no longer classified as urban.

The revised Metropolitan Planning Area will include all of Onondaga County and the entire towns Hastings, Schroepfel and West Monroe in Oswego County, and the entire Town of Sullivan in Madison County.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.  
There were none.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment.

Ms. Robison moved, and Mr. McKeon seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**C. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization**

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that in recent years, on behalf of the City of Syracuse, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council has conducted an analysis of the City’s road network to provide insight into prioritizing certain roads for pavement maintenance. This process leads to the development of a Priority Score, which can help guide City staff on pavement decisions.

The Priority Score has traditionally included several infrastructure-related variables, such as pavement rating (collected in 2023), traffic volumes, functional classification, and others. This year, at the request of the City, the SMTC also included demographic information from the Census Bureau to include an equity component in the development of the Priority Score.

Mr. Frasier, Senior Transportation Analyst at the SMTC provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa indicated that this is an informational only item.

**D. CNYRTA Public Outreach (Exploring Tomorrow’s Transit)**

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the SMTC designed and implemented a public outreach effort on behalf of CNYRTA (Centro) called “Exploring Tomorrow’s Transit” (ETT).

Elements of this effort were:

- Project website
- Background information presentation video
- Community engagement survey
- Pop-ups / tabling events
- Open Houses
- Community discussion meetings

Over 1,000 people engaged with this effort, mostly through the survey. Results from the survey and feedback from the two rounds of public meetings clearly indicated that increased frequency of transit service is the most-desired improvement. Participants also expressed interest in on-demand service and excitement for the implementation of BRT. The final report summarizes all of the feedback that was gathered.

Ms. Meghan Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge completion of the CNYRTA Public Outreach study.

Mr. Tuff moved, and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Bridge NY Application Review**

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that in November 2023, the SMTC notified eligible applicants of the statewide Bridge NY solicitation. Within the SMTC planning area, eight applications were received and have been reviewed by an evaluators group:

Bridge applications were due to the SMTC on January 26, 2024. Applications were received from the following municipalities, with both the Federal requested funds and total costs indicated:

Onondaga County

Peck Rd: \$1.937M Federal, \$2.039M Total

Valley Dr: \$1.816M Federal, \$1.912M Total

City of Syracuse

W Brighton Ave: \$1.702M Federal, \$1.791M Total

W Kirkpatrick St: \$2.397M Federal, \$2.524M Total

Town of Hastings

Nellis Dr: \$1.425M Federal, \$1.500M Total

Town of LaFayette

Walberger Rd: \$4.183M Federal, \$4.403M Total

Village of Fayetteville

Franklin St: \$1.543M Federal, \$1.624M Total

Village of Skaneateles

W Elizabeth St: \$2.158M Federal, \$2.272M Total

Applications were distributed electronically to a review group, which consisted of representatives from the City of Syracuse Engineering Department, Onondaga County Department of Transportation, and the New York State Department of Transportation, in addition to SMTC staff. To assist with discussions, review group members were provided with an evaluation matrix that asked them to score each application for the following factors: deliverability risk, infrastructure need, and economic competitiveness. City and County members did not evaluate their own applications.

The application review group met on February 6, 2024. SMTC staff compiled the scores received and shared a ranking of the top 3 applications by each review member. Based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative discussion about each application, in addition to the allotment of available federal funds within the SMTC planning area, the review group prioritized the following four applications to present to the SMTC Planning and Policy Committee for concurrence. In no particular order, Onondaga County (Peck Rd), City of Syracuse (W Brighton Ave), Village of Fayetteville, and the Village of Skaneateles.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.  
There were none.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee agree with the prioritized list for funding.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Roth seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Election of Officers**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that pursuant to the SMTTC's Memorandum of Understanding and By-Laws, the Policy, Planning and Executive Committees are due to elect, by consensus of each Committee, a new slate of officers.

The New York State Department of Transportation shall serve as the Secretary of the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee, and the Central Staff Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Planning Committee.

Chairperson Costa asked if anyone would like to be nominated.  
There were no nominations.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the current Chairperson and Vice Chairperson both have agreed to serve another term.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to agree to the nomination of Ms. Costa as Chairperson and Ms. Robison as Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.